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necrological sketches of Dahlmann, Sybel, Treitschke, and Mommsen, so written as to be contributions to the historiography of the nineteenth century. Four essays have to do with European politics. They smack strongly of the agitation for a larger navy, while throwing light in a friendly way on the relations with England, the rise of imperialism, and the Austro-German alliance. They will be of more value to the historian of a later day than they are to one of the present. There is, of course, the almost inevitable essay on "1848", somewhat antiquated in its facts but sensible in its interpretation.

It is a considerable service to have the best of these fugitive essays put in convenient form but a more rigid standard in selection would not have detracted from the value of the volumes.

GUY STANTON FORD.

Memoirs and Letters of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Morier, G.C.B., from 1826 to 1876. In two volumes. By his daughter, Mrs. ROSSLYN WEMYSS. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1911. Pp. xi, 418; vii, 418.)

BORN in 1826 and graduated at Oxford in 1849, Robert Morier began his diplomatic career in 1853 as unpaid attaché to the British Embassy at Vienna. In 1859 he was transferred to Berlin, and during the next seventeen years he held minor posts at various German capitals. The slowness of his promotion would cause surprise, did we not know that in the British diplomatic service the high places went then either to great nobles or to special favorites of the crown or the cabinet. Morier was neither, although the queen and Lord John Russell liked him and he had many warm friends among the aristocracy. But he lacked the art of self-seeking which so often outstrips mere merit in the race for honors; and so it happened that his very remarkable talents and unmatched special knowledge had to wait long for official recognition.

It is his familiarity with German politics, including Austrian, for the quarter of a century preceding 1876, that gives his *Memoirs* their almost first-rate historical importance. At a time when the English despised the Germans and were proud of knowing nothing about them, Morier was studying them most sympathetically and making acquaintances and friendships among them. He came thus to know not only the history of the Old Germany, but the men who were working in different ways to create the New Germany.

His *Memoirs* supply material of two kinds which the student of the founding of the German Empire will find valuable. First, there are monographs or Foreign Office despatches in which Morier describes for the benefit of his superiors the points involved in some of the great questions that arose during the late fifties and the sixties. Next, there are his private letters, containing off-hand criticism of men and events at the time of writing. He was among the earliest to recognize the genius

of Bismarck, "one of the most sinister characters in history", and to deplore, as Bismarck advanced from victory to victory, that the United Germany "worthy of the soul of Goethe, Schiller, and Kant", which the Liberals had dreamed of, was, instead, a wonderful military machine engineered by Authority and not by Liberty.

Morier's many references to Bismarck are of capital importance. It is a proof of his own worth that, although officially he was only a diplomatic attaché, the inexorable Prussian took notice of him and worked to get rid of him. This was not only because Morier was a Liberal, but because he was a friend of Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Victoria, whom Bismarck suspected of attempting to Anglicize Prussia. When we remember that only a few years before the English had worked themselves into a frenzy over Prince Albert's alleged attempts to Germanize England we shall see the humor of the situation.

Morier's later service was at Munich, where he passed the years 1872-1876. The chapters bearing on the war of 1870, the German Empire, the beginnings of the *Kulturkampf*, and Bismarck's frustrated war scare of 1875 abound in interesting statements and comments, made by an expert behind the scenes.

Mrs. Wemyss has selected from her father's correspondence chiefly the material that bears on his political career. But there are enough extracts of a more personal nature to reveal to us the man himself. He had not only a strong and logical intellect but also affectionateness and charm that endeared him to some of the most eminent men of his time. He possessed courage to the verge of indiscretion, as when in his pamphlet on the Danish Question he satirized his English fellow-countrymen for their habit of not condescending to know what foreign nations thought or did. He was magnanimous, because, as he told Layard, he allowed himself to be boycotted by the Foreign Office for eight years on account of this same pamphlet which he wrote at Lord Russell's suggestion. Before it was printed, however, Russell reversed his policy, and the Foreign Office treated Morier as guilty of treachery to his chief. Why Russell permitted this injustice to continue, we are not informed. We hope that Mrs. Wemyss will give, in a sequel, the story of her father's later career, at Lisbon and St. Petersburg.

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The American People: a Study in National Psychology. By A. MAURICE LOW, M.A. Volume II. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. vi, 608.)

THE second volume of Mr. Low's work, like its predecessor, is composed of a collection of chapters, each one an independent essay upon the historical origin of some feature of American life or thought. Its